

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A composition useful in treating mammalian tissue, said composition being comprised of a peptide ~~corresponding to~~ comprising SEQ ID NO: 48 (Glycine-Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine).
2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said peptide is at a therapeutically effective concentration in a range of about .0002% to about 90%.
3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is a cosmetic preparation.
4. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein said cosmetic preparation is formulated as a topical preparation to be applied to a patient's skin.
5. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein said topical preparation is selected from the group consisting of an emulsion, lotion, spray, aerosol, powder, ointment, cream and foam.
6. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the mammalian tissue being treated is a blood vessel.
7. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is useful for treating a condition selected from the group consisting of hypertension, coronary heart disease, arteriosclerosis, angina, coronary thrombosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and restenosis post angioplasty.
8. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said peptide is useful in improving tissue turgor.
9. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition further includes a pharmaceutical delivery system.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 9, wherein said pharmaceutical delivery system is selected from the group consisting of a topical delivery system and a subcutaneous delivery system.

11. (Original) The composition of claim 10, wherein said topical delivery system is selected from the group consisting of a cosmetic preparation, powder, emulsion, lotion, spray, ointment, aerosol, cream and foam.

12. (Currently Amended) A peptide having a formula of R<sub>1</sub>-Valyl-Valyl-Prolyl-Glutyl-R<sub>2</sub>, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is an amino portion modified to include an amine, amide, or amino acid sequence having 1-10 amino acids and R<sub>2</sub> is a carboxy portion modified to include an amide, ester, or carboxy terminus sequence having 1-10 amino acids.

13. (Currently Amended) A peptide ~~corresponding to~~ comprising a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID 42 (Alanine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine-Amide), SEQ ID 43 (Acetyl-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine), SEQ ID 44 (Acetyl-Glycine-Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine-Amide), SEQ ID 45 (Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine), SEQ ID 46 (Glycine-Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine), SEQ ID 47 (Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine-Amide), SEQ ID 48 (Glycine-Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine), SEQ ID 49 (Cysteine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine-Cysteine), SEQ ID 50 (Cysteine-Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine-Cysteine), SEQ ID 51 (Cysteine-Glycine-Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine-Cysteine), SEQ ID 52 (Cysteine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine-Cysteine), SEQ ID 53 (Cysteine-Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine-Cysteine), SEQ ID 54 (Cysteine-Glycine-Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine-Cysteine).

**Claims 14-18 (Canceled)**

19. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprised of a peptide ~~corresponding to~~ comprising SEQ ID 48 (Glycine-Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine).

20. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic preparation comprised of a peptide ~~corresponding to~~ comprising SEQ ID 48 (Glycine-Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine).

21. (Currently Amended) The peptide as set forth in claim 13, where the peptide ~~corresponding to~~ comprises SEQ ID NO: 45 (Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine).

22. (Currently Amended) The peptide as set forth in claim 13, where the peptide ~~corresponding to~~ comprises SEQ ID NO: 50 (Cysteine-Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine-Cysteine).

23. (Currently Amended) The peptide as set forth in claim 13, where the peptide ~~corresponding to~~ comprises SEQ ID NO: 53 (Cysteine-Alanine-Valine-Valine-Proline-Glutamine-Cysteine).